

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A synthetic fuel composition, comprising:
 - (a) at least about 90 wt. % of coal dust;
 - (b) from about 0.5 to 8.0 wt. % based on the weight of the coal dust of one or more organic chemicals selected from the group consisting of functionalized starches, polysaccharide resins and mixtures of polysaccharide resins with copolymers of sodium acrylates and acrylamide reactive with said coal dust, and
 - (c) water,

wherein the polysaccharide resins have a molecular weight less than 500,000.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A fuel composition according to Claim 1, wherein the coal dust is from anthracite coal.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A fuel composition according to Claim 1, which is compacted.

6 – 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The synthetic fuel composition according to Claim 1, wherein about 90% of the particle of the coal dust are 50 microns or less.

10. (Original) A synthetic fuel component comprising:

a) at least about 90 wt. % of coal dust;

b) about 0.5 to 8 wt. % based on the weight of the coal dust of one or more functionalized starches polysaccharide resins having a molecular weight less than 500,000; and

c) water.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~They~~ synthetic fuel composition according to Claim 10, where the ~~functionalized starch~~ is one or more polysaccharide resins consist ~~consisting~~ of a solution of a polysaccharide having a dextrose ~~equipment~~ equivalent between 0.1 and 100 wherein the polysaccharide has been chemically modified.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of making a synthetic fuel composition, comprising:

mixing at least about 90 wt. % of coal dust with water and with one or more organic chemicals selected from the group consisting of ~~functionalized starches, polysaccharide resins and mixtures of polysaccharide resins with~~ copolymers of sodium acrylates and acrylamide ~~and mixtures thereof~~ reactive with said coal dust to form a composition; and

compacting the composition; thereby forming the synthetic fuel composition.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein at least about 90 % of the particle sizes of the coal dust is 50 microns or less.

14. (Original) A method of making a synthetic fuel composition according to Claim 12, wherein compaction is provided by a pug mill.